

2013 Maryborough Conference

TOPIC: Creating a Master Race of Viola Players

A discussion forum on ideas for creating viola players in school orchestras

Date: 4-8 July 2013



Loreta Fin will share her ideas on teaching the viola in her string program at Somerville House. Questions and discussion are encouraged.

Presenter - Loreta Fin

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Past State and National President and
Current Qld Rep on National Executive – Australian Strings Association (AUSTA)
Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) Examiner,
AMEB Consulting Editor – AMEB Series 8 Violin Books, Preliminary to Grade 4
Composer – Wilfin Publications
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Broad ideas

- In the Old Days – who gets to play the viola?
- 1st Violin, 2nd Violin, BAD Violin!
- Viola players don't get any "choons"
- The dreaded alto clef - Personal experience
- When to start? How do I achieve a balanced program?
- Quantity breeds quality
- Converted Violins with soggy C Strings – gone are those days
- When and who do I "swap"?

Beginner Violas

- See beginner method
- Explain Fin "Method" and theory of note reading – use Tas eg
- Using letters puts everyone "on the same page"
- Hand staff – the portable clef
- Small instruments
- Quantity breeds...numbers.....breeds quality.
- Don't fear the clef! Everything else is the same
- Class/group publications

Converting Violinists to Violists – crossing over from the dark side

- Who do I pick?
- Teach in groups to create healthy competition
- Where do I start? Hand staff
- What's the same? What's different?
- Recognise open strings as reference points.
- Middle C - middle line
- DON'T THINK about the violin or treble clef.....(yet)
- Catch them out: they WILL play by ear or read skips and steps, so make sure that you make them SAY those notes. Do this VERY often in first weeks, but keep the music easy.
- Ready, Set, GO!! Accelerated learning
- Carrot: Quick passage to senior group, but ASAP: the deep end – jnr grp!
- A new book every week – as many pieces as possible. Don't dwell.
Sight-read, sight-read sight-read....and CHECK that they ARE reading notes
- Treble clef – NOW I can think of violin!
- Examples of Texts